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**ARAB ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONFERENCE. 31 May—**

A conference of Arab economic and Finance Ministers ended in Beirut after agreeing on recommendations designed primarily to establish a closer-knit economy between Arab League States and to stimulate inter-Arab investment and trade exchanges. The main proposals were for the facilitation of the movement of Arab capital among Arab countries and for the abolition and reduction of Customs dues on a number of agricultural and industrial exchanges. Other recommendations called for a plan to create an Arab finance institution and an Arab reconstruction and development bank to aid development projects; for proposals for an Arab mercantile company; and for the creation of an Arab company to exploit Dead Sea resources, mainly potash. All Arab League member States were represented at the conference except Libya.

**ARGENTINA. 21 May.**—A Bill to dissolve the Jockey Club in Buenos Aires and to transfer to the State its property, which included two race courses and two golf clubs, was passed by the Chamber of Deputies.

**22 May**—The Bill was approved by the Senate and became law.

**28 May**—The Government announced its decision to suspend, as an act of clemency, the sanctions recently imposed on the joint Buenos Aires branch of the two British insurance companies—the Royal Insurance Company Ltd and the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. Ltd.

**AUSTRALIA. 3 June—Senate Elections.** With the completion of the count in Queensland, the state of the parties in the new Senate was announced as follows: Government 31, Labour Opposition 29. (Before the election the state of the parties was: Government 32, Opposition 28).

**AUSTRIA. 25 May**—Soviet refusal to attend deputies' meeting to consider Austrian treaty (*see Great Britain*).

**26 May**—Western reply *re* Austrian treaty (*see Great Britain*).

**BELGIUM. 3 June—British Base.** The Chamber of Representatives passed by 176 votes to 9 with 7 abstentions the Bill to ratify the agreement for the establishment of a British military base near Antwerp.

**BURMA. 21 May**—Notice of withdrawal from Ottawa Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

**CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS.**

**3 June**—The conference opened in London attended by the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom (Sir Winston Churchill), Canada (Mr St Laurent), Australia (Mr Menzies), New Zealand (Mr Holland), South Africa (Dr Malan), India (Mr Nehru), Pakistan (Mr Mohammed Ali), Ceylon (Mr Senanayake), and Southern Rhodesia (Sir Godfrey Huggins).

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 26 May**—Prague Radio announced that Richard Slansky, brother of Rudolf Slansky (the former deputy Prime Minister who was executed in December 1952), had been sentenced to life imprisonment for treason and espionage. Another defendant also received a life sentence, and two others were each sentenced to twenty-five years' imprisonment.

**30 May—Currency Reform.** Prague Radio announced that from 1 June food rationing would be abolished and prices reduced by an average of 31 per cent in the case of foodstuffs and 37 per cent in the case of industrial products. At the same time the value of the crown would be fixed at the rate of 1.80 to one rouble (compared with the old rate of 12 to one rouble).

Mr Siroky, Prime Minister, told the National Assembly that fifty old crowns would be exchanged for one new one. Wages would, however, be paid at the rate of one new crown for five old, and this rate would also apply to exchanges of cash and notes up to 300 crowns a person and to the first 5,000 crowns of deposited savings a person. The next 5,000 crowns of savings, but not of notes, would be exchanged at the rate of one new crown for 6.25 old, and the next 10,000 at one to ten. All savings above 50,000 crowns and in notes in excess of 300 crowns would be exchanged at one new for fifty old. Mr Siroky said the object of the changes was to raise the purchasing power of the crown, to lower and unify retail prices, and to increase productivity.

**27 May**—It was learned that ten Kulaks had been sentenced at Liberec for 'espionage, anti-State activities, and sabotage'. Two received life sentences and the others terms ranging from fifteen years upwards.

**DENMARK. 28 May—New Constitution.** A referendum on the new constitution, already passed by two consecutive Parliaments, resulted in a vote of 1,181,173 in favour and 318,075 against. The necessary consent of at least 45 per cent of the electorate was thus secured. The new constitution accorded women of the Royal Family the right to inherit the throne, thus making Princess Margrethe, eldest daughter of King Frederick, the heir to the throne. In addition, it provided for the abolition of the Landsting (Upper House), for a change in the status of Greenland from that of a colony to a province, and for the lowering of the franchise age from twenty-five to twenty-three.

**EGYPT. 21 May—Great Britain.** It was announced that Sir Ralph Stevenson, the British Ambassador, would be returning to England on sick leave at the beginning of June and that during his absence Mr Hankey, British Minister in Budapest, would take charge of the Embassy.

A British soldier was stabbed to death and another British soldier wounded in Port Said.

Military mission to Italy (*see Italy*).

**24 May**—Mr Hankey arrived in Cairo to relieve Sir Ralph Stevenson at the British Embassy.

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**Egypt** (*continued*)

The first batch of British women and children left for England by air in accordance with the British Embassy's advice that all British subjects whose presence in Egypt was not essential would be wise to leave.

**26 May**—British troops fired on an Egyptian gang which was trying to cut and steal a water pipe line near Suez. Two of the gang were wounded and three captured.

Near another water filtration plant south of Fayid British troops razed a derelict village of mud huts with bulldozers. The village had been searched beforehand and the Governor of Suez informed.

The Ministry of National Guidance later issued a statement for publication abroad saying that a village of 300 houses had been demolished and the inhabitants left without shelter or food.

It was announced that Fuad Serag ed-Din, former Wafd Minister of the Interior, and Mme Mustapha Nahas, wife of the former Wafd Prime Minister, were among a number of persons to be tried on corruption charges.

**27 May**—Two British soldiers were attacked by two Egyptians with knives in Fayid. One of the soldiers was wounded and the other escaped.

**29 May**—The Sub-Governor of Ismailia announced that 'thirteen suspicious characters considered to be a public menace' had been arrested at Ismailia.

**FRANCE. 21 May—Fall of Government.** The Government was defeated by 328 votes to 244 on Article II of the Finance Bill which provided that the Government should be given special powers to effect economies and reforms. M. Mayer had made the matter a question of confidence. The Opposition vote consisted of the Communists, nearly all the Gaullists and Socialists, a number of Independents, and some who defected from other parties. The Government's overthrow followed within four hours of the announcement of the forthcoming three-Power conference in Bermuda (*see Great Britain*).

**24 May**—M. Mollet, the Socialist leader, declined an invitation by President Auriol to form a Government, and the President then invited M. Diethelm, the Gaullist leader, to make an attempt.

**25 May**—M. Diethelm told the President that he could not undertake to form a Government. President Auriol issued a statement revealing that he had pointed out to both M. Mollet and M. Diethelm that if the Socialists and Gaullists systematically remained in opposition with 'a third party' they would render the working of a parliamentary regime impossible, and that he had appealed to them to warn their parties against creating a situation which would endanger the Republic and harm French influence and prestige.

**M.R.P.** The M.R.P. annual congress adopted a resolution which declared that the continuity of French foreign policy pursued by MM. Schuman and Bidault should be an essential condition for M.R.P. support for any future Government.

**26 May**—M. Reynaud accepted an invitation from President Auriol to try and form a Government.

**27 May**—In his statement of policy to the National Assembly M. Reynaud emphasized the gravity of the economic situation, and declared that France had become 'the sick man of Europe' and needed a drastic revolution. He said that ministerial and administrative stability and authority were necessary to handle both domestic and oversea reforms, and without submitting any concrete proposals, he announced that he would not form a Cabinet unless and until Parliament approved a revision of the Constitution making dissolution of the Assembly automatic on the overthrow of a Government which had been in office less than eighteen months.

**28 May**—M. Reynaud failed to obtain the 314 votes required for his investiture, the vote being 276 in his favour, 235 against, and 109 abstentions. Those opposing included the Communists and Socialists, 13 Radicals and 14 M.R.P. The abstentions included 7 U.D.S.R., 15 Radicals, 22 M.R.P., and 36 U.R.A.S. (former Gaullists).

**29 May**—M. Mendès-France, a Socialist Radical, accepted an invitation from the President to form a Government.

**Morocco.** The Foreign Ministry confirmed that 270 pashas and caids—two-thirds of the local governors of Morocco—had signed a petition for the deposition of the Sultan, Sidi Mohammed. The petition had been forwarded to M. Bidault, the outgoing Foreign Minister, by Gen. Guillaume, the Resident-General. It was understood to protest against the Sultan's continued intransigence over negotiations with the French on a programme of reforms and also against the Sultan's conduct of religious affairs.

**31 May**—The Foreign Ministry issued a statement declaring that it did not intend 'at the present juncture to follow up politically' the petition of pashas and caids, but it commented that the importance of Moroccan opinion from which it emanated should not be underestimated and that it could only reinforce the Government's will to give democratic expression to tendencies in Moroccan opinion.

**3 June**—Outlining his proposed policy in the Assembly, M. Mendès-France said that if he were confirmed in office he would submit a Bill authorizing the Government to introduce reforms by decrees which would become law on their ratification by Parliament and, pending ratification, would be provisionally enforceable. A definition of the Government's aims and of the framework of its programme would be appended to the Bill. He attributed the country's plight to the one basic fact that the State inclined to undertake at home and abroad tasks which vastly exceeded its means, and he declared that the problem of national defence must be reconsidered and the burden of the war in Indo-China lightened. An exact plan for resolving the Indo-Chinese conflict would have to be presented at the three-Power conference in Bermuda. Economies would also have to be made by better organization of the public services and by abandonment of unproductive efforts. He would follow a policy of full employment and to achieve it would concentrate especially on developing exports and on housing. In regard to foreign policy, he was convinced that it was in the interests of all to end the excessive dependence of France on the United States, and he favour-

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**France (continued)**

ed a close Franco-British association which he said could establish the sure basis of a great policy and could become a 'new force for peace'.

**E.P.U.** It was announced that the French deficit for May in the European Payments Union was equivalent to \$37,400,000, one-third of which was on account of trade with the sterling area. The cumulative deficit amounted to about \$763 m.

**GERMANY. 21 May—East Germany.** Regulations were issued prohibiting the issue of ration books to all east Germans attending schools or universities in west Berlin.

**22 May—West Germany. Party Uniforms.** The *Bundesrat* voted unanimously in favour of restoring the ban on party uniforms. The original draft of the Government's Bill for the regulation of public meetings and processions had contained such a ban, but on 6 May the *Bundestag* had voted to delete it on the ground, among others, that in Prussia during the Weimar Republic the police had been unable to enforce the ban against Hitler's S.A. formations.

**23 May—Sudeten Rally.** At a rally in Frankfurt of Sudeten Germans, Pomeranians, and others, Herr Seebohm, Minister for Transport, and Herr Kaiser, Minister for All-German Questions, both proclaimed the right of all Germans to their homeland. Herr Seebohm said the right must be anchored in any future European constitution.

**24 May—Berlin.** East German police fired at west Berlin citizens who had approached the border between the French and Soviet sectors, but there were no casualties.

**28 May—East Germany.** It was announced that Mr Semionov, former political adviser to Gen. Chuikov, had been appointed as the first Soviet High Commissioner in the Soviet zone, and that Gen. Chuikov, who had combined the posts of Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Armed Forces and head of the Soviet Control Commission, would retain the single post of Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Armed Forces.

**29 May—West Germany. Victims of Nazi Persecution.** The Cabinet approved unanimously a Bill to give compensation to victims of Nazi persecution. The proposed compensation was estimated by the Finance Ministry to involve a capital expenditure of 4,500 m. marks over the next ten years. It was quite separate from the treaty with Israel under which the Federal Government undertook to pay 3,500 m. marks in goods.

**East Germany. Rationing.** A decree was published permitting the restoration of ration cards to the majority of those who had been deprived of them on 1 May.

**30 May—West Germany. German Party.** The German Party adopted unanimously an election programme which called for: a law prohibiting political strikes; the release of German war criminals; the elimination of 'moral harm' caused by denazification; and for tax exemptions and bounties for large families. Dr von Merkatz, chairman of the parliamentary group, said that the Federal Republic should have

the right to take part in all international negotiations when German interests were involved and that the party would never agree to the political separation of the Saar.

**31 May—West Germany. Klöckner Steel Concern.** The Allied High Commission promulgated its plan for the breaking-up of the trust controlled by the Klöckner family. It provided that the family should have a major holding in only one of the successor companies to be set up under the reorganization scheme.

**Berlin. Refugees.** The total of east German refugees arriving in west Berlin during May was announced as just under 40,000. The number flown out to west Germany during the month was 42,500.

**2 June—West Germany.** The Cabinet approved the Chancellor's action in sending Herr Blankenhorn, director of the political division of the Foreign Ministry, to Washington. (Herr Blankenhorn had left by air on 30 May.) It was disclosed that, among other subjects of discussion, he would raise with President Eisenhower the question of the Federal Government having indirect contact with the forthcoming three-Power conference in Bermuda.

**3 June—West Germany. United States.** An interim agreement was signed in Bonn giving effect to the provisions—amended to conform with the existing situation—of the 1923 U.S.-German treaty of friendship, commerce, and consular rights. The agreement, which covered west Berlin, re-established normal economic relations between the two countries.

**GREAT BRITAIN. 21 May—Three-Power Meeting.** Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, announced in the Commons that a meeting would take place in Bermuda shortly after 15 June between President Eisenhower, the French Prime Minister, and himself. In reply to a question as to whether it was contemplated that the meeting might be a preliminary to talks with Mr Malenkov and others, Sir Winston said he hoped that they 'might take a definite step forward to a meeting of far graver import'.

**Korea.** In a statement to the House on Korea, Sir Winston Churchill said that the great burden borne by the United States in Korea gave her a major voice in decisions, but the British Government had expressed its opinion plainly and frankly and most careful consideration had been given to British representations. He was sure that the United States were as anxious as Britain to bring the negotiations about prisoners to an end, but he emphasized the great practical difficulties which the latest Communist proposals involved. The proposal that two Communist States—Poland and Czechoslovakia—should send armed contingents to Korea raised obvious difficulties in respect of which the South Korean Government's attitude could not be treated as negligible. It was also doubtful whether the Swiss would be willing to send strong forces, and the Swedish attitude was not yet known. In addition, it was essential that the period of captivity for those prisoners not accepting repatriation should be subject to a time limit.

**Egypt. Changes at British Embassy (see Egypt).**

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**Great Britain** (*continued*)

**Burma.** Mr Thorneycroft, President of the Board of Trade, told the Commons that the Burmese Government had given notice of withdrawal from the Ottawa Trade Agreement of 1932 after 30 September.

**Nigeria.** Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, told the Commons that recent events had shown that it was not possible for the three regions of Nigeria to work together in a federation so closely knit as that provided by the existing Constitution, and it had been decided to redraw the Constitution so as to provide for greater regional autonomy and at the same time to ensure that common economic and defence requirements were secured. Representatives from each region would be invited to London to discuss the reform with the Secretary of State.

**22 May**—Iraqi protest *re* Sir Winston Churchill's statement on Middle East (*see Iraq*) and Syrian protest (*see Syria*).

**24 May**—Jordan protest *re* Churchill statement (*see Jordan*).

**25 May—Austrian Treaty.** The secretary-general of the deputies for the Austrian treaty received a reply from the Soviet Government to the invitation to attend a meeting of the deputies on 27 May. The Soviet Government declined the invitation saying that there was no reason to hope that the proposed conference would produce more favourable results than the previous conferences and suggesting that the matter could best be considered in a diplomatic manner by correspondence. It also stated that the calling of such a conference must be left to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**26 May—Austria.** At the request of the three western deputies, the secretary-general of the deputies sent a reply to the Soviet deputy's letter of 25 May, pointing out that all but a few of the 260 previous meetings had been called without specific instructions from the Council of Foreign Ministers and that at the last meeting of the deputies on 9 February the Soviet deputy had agreed to an adjournment on the understanding that the next meeting would be called by the United Kingdom's chairman at an early date. The reply also stated that the three western deputies considered unwarranted the Soviet assumption that the proposed meeting would not lead to the conclusion of an Austrian treaty. They had made clear at the last meeting their readiness to accept any treaty which ensured Austria's political and economic independence, and they were convinced that, given Soviet good will, the conclusion of a treaty was still possible.

**Korea.** The Prime Minister issued a statement saying that the proposals submitted by Gen. Harrison at Panmunjom on 25 May had been presented after consultation with the British Government which supported them completely. They approximated closely to the Indian resolution passed by the United Nations in December 1952.

**29 May—East Africa Command.** The Government announced the establishment of a new East Africa Command, directly responsible to the War Office, to deal with Mau-Mau terrorism. Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Erskine was appointed to be C.-in-C., East Africa.

**South Africa.** Dr Malan, Prime Minister of South Africa, issued a statement on his arrival in London for the Coronation, asking that the



press and people of the United Kingdom should investigate thoroughly and impartially their sources of information about South Africa which he declared to be 'overwhelmingly contaminated by political bias and by hatred of anyone or anything' not purely British. He gave a warning against helping in the creation in South Africa of 'another Ulster', saying it would not be tolerated by the great bulk of South Africans and would not be conducive to good relations between South Africa and the United Kingdom.

**2 June—Coronation.** Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey in the presence of a great congregation which included Commonwealth and foreign representatives.

**3 June—Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers** *q.v.*

**GREECE. 27 May—United States.** Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Greece in the course of their tour of Near and Middle Eastern Countries.

**HONG KONG. 21 May—Trade with China.** The British firm of Wheelock, Marden & Co. issued a statement in reply to allegations made at a hearing of Senator McCarthy's sub-committee (*see p. 322*). They stated that three ships of Panama registry formerly in their ownership, which were trading along the China coast in early 1952, had been restrained by the Chinese Communist authorities when trade with China had been prohibited by the Panama authorities. Their registrations had been cancelled on 28 June 1952 and they were now operating under Chinese control. The owners had never authorized the carriage of troops or passengers and had always adhered to the relative laws and regulations.

**30 May—**The former owners of the Panamanian-registered ship *Perico* which was reported in Washington to have carried Chinese Communist troops in June 1951 (*see p. 342*) issued a statement saying that the master of the ship had been forced to take 462 unarmed Chinese soldiers from Swatow to Canton under threat. The master had reported the incident to the Commissioner of Police on his return to Hong Kong.

**INDIA. 25 May—Visit of Mr Nehru to Kashmir** (*see Kashmir*).

**26 May—Korea.** Mr Nehru said in Delhi that according to his information the U.N. proposals submitted at Panmunjom the day before came much nearer to the Indian resolution than previous U.N. proposals and he hoped that they would receive the fullest consideration and that a speedy solution would be reached. He saw no reason why the matter should remain unsettled any longer.

**INDO-CHINA. 23 May—**A French Union post thirty-seven miles south of Hanoi which had been captured by the Viet-Minh the night before was won back.

**26 May—**French Union troops evacuated the post of Yen Vi, thirty miles south of Hanoi on the west bank of the Day River. It had been under intermittent attack since 12 May.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT IN DISCUSSION

**Indo-China (continued)**

**1 June**—Military responsibility was officially transferred to the Viet-Nam authorities in the provinces of Mytho, Vinh Long, and Travinh.

**INDONESIA. 3 June**—The Government resigned following a dispute between the two major parties of the coalition—the Nationalists and the Masjumi, or Muslim Party. The apparent cause of the dispute was the Masjumi objection to the land reform measures for northern Sumatra which were initiated by the extreme left wing and were acceptable to the Nationalist Party.

**IRAQ. 22 May**—The President of the Chamber of Deputies sent a message to the Speaker of the British House of Commons for transmission to members of Parliament and of the Government. It stated that the Iraq Parliament unanimously condemned Sir Winston Churchill's statement on the Middle East (*see p. 305*) for its biased support of Zionism and Israel and disregard for Arab rights, and declared that the statement impaired British relations with Iraq and the Arab world and endangered peace and stability in the Middle East.

**2 June**—The Prime Minister, Jamil el Madfai, announced the Government's decision to end censorship immediately and to abolish martial law in the near future.

In a statement to the press he expressed Iraq's full support for Egyptian national aspirations and willingness to execute any decision taken by the Arab League Council to help Egypt. He declared that Iraq would never negotiate with Israel and had never considered joining the proposed Middle East defence command. Iraq was a member of the Arab League collective security pact and her main duty was to defend Iraq territory and to fulfil her obligations to other member States.

**ISRAEL. 21 May et seq.** Jordan allegations *re* frontier incidents (*see Jordan*).

**24 May**—The Government announced the formation of a new frontier force as a special unit within the police force.

**25 May**—The four General Zionist Ministers resigned from the Coalition Government following the adoption by Mapai—the largest single party in the Coalition—of a resolution that singing of the Internationale and flying of the Red Flag should be allowed on May Day and special trade union holidays in schools where the majority of parents so wished. The General Zionists considered the Mapai decision to be a breach of an agreement between the two parties to replace the political 'trend' system in education by a unified non-political system. The Mapai resolution was opposed by Mr Ben Gurion, Prime Minister and Mapai party leader.

**26 May—Frontier Incidents.** The Israel-Jordan mixed armistice commission met in emergency session to consider complaints of armistice violation by both sides. The Israelis alleged that armed Jordanians had attacked three Israeli villages in the Sharon plain the night before, causing three deaths and considerable damage to property. Similar

allegations were made against Israel by Jordan. It was decided that U.N. representatives should investigate the charges on the spot.

**27 May**—The Army announced that 'armed Jordan units' had crossed the demarcation lines that morning and had been engaged by Israel units. One Israel soldier had been killed and one wounded. A protest had been submitted to the mixed armistice commission (see also *Jordan*).

**1 June**—**Jordan**. The military authorities announced that on 30 May armed Jordanians had attacked an Israeli settlement opposite the Jordanian town of Qalqilya and that on 31 May Arab fire had been directed on two trains passing along the Jerusalem-Haifa railway.

**3 June**—Mr Ben Gurion announced to the Knesset that he had reached agreement with the General Zionist Party. He said that once a unified system of education had been adopted the schools, like all State buildings, would fly only the flag symbolizing national unity. The General Zionists later announced their decision to remain in the Government, and the reconstituted coalition received a vote of confidence of 72 to 24 with 2 abstentions.

**ITALY. 21 May**—**Egypt**. An Egyptian military mission arrived on a visit to Rome.

**24 May**—**Trieste**. Speaking of Trieste in an election speech at Vittorio Veneto, Signor De Gasperi, Prime Minister, said that the real issue was not only the future of Trieste but a solution of the whole problem that would settle Italy's eastern frontier. He still thought a solution based on ethnic divisions would be best because it would leave the door open for negotiations with Yugoslavia, and he believed that a reasonable agreement over the eastern frontier would not only build a bridge between Italy and Yugoslavia but might also prove to be the hinge on which the peace of Europe would develop.

In the same speech Signor De Gasperi welcomed the forthcoming Bermuda conference and said that the Government had been officially told that it would be informed of all the proceedings and consulted about anything directly concerning Italian interests.

**28 May**—**United States**. Speaking at a dinner in Milan, Mrs Claire Booth, the U.S. Ambassador, said that the President and the American people desired for Italy what most Italians desired—a stable, democratic government. 'But if . . . the Italian people should fall unhappy victims to the wiles of the totalitarians of the right or of the left, there would follow, logically and tragically, grave consequences for this intimate and warm co-operation we now enjoy.'

**3 June**—**Election Riots**. After a party rally in Naples, supporters of the (neo-Fascist) M.S.I. clashed with the police who were compelled to make baton charges and to use tear gas to disperse them. Thirteen police and thirty-nine demonstrators were injured, and fifty-two persons arrested.

Another disturbance occurred at Rovigo after the police had banned Prince Valerio Borghese, a notorious ex-Fascist, from addressing an M.S.I. meeting.

**JAPAN. 21 May—New Government.** Mr Yoshida announced his new Liberal Government. All but six of the Ministers had been in the previous Government. Mr Ukasaki returned as Foreign Minister. Mr Ogasawara, former Minister for International Trade and Industry, became Finance Minister in place of Mr Mukai who declined office.

Mr Yoshida had earlier attempted to form a coalition with the Progressive Party but had failed to come to terms with Mr Shigemitsu, the Progressive Party leader. The latter had, however, promised his party's support 'for the sake of political stability'.

**27 May—Persian Oil.** The Tokyo District Court rejected the application of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for an order of attachment on a cargo of oil recently imported by the Idemitsu Kosan company in its tanker, *Nissho Maru* (see p. 312). The court held that it was beyond its jurisdiction to rule on the ownership of the oil, that it could not deny the validity of the Persian nationalization law, and that the plaintiff had failed to establish its ownership of the oil. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company immediately filed an appeal before the Tokyo Higher Court.

A Foreign Ministry official said that in granting future allocations of foreign exchange the Government would bear in mind the desirability of not impairing good relations between Japan and Great Britain.

**29 May—**The Government announced that Japanese importers would not be allowed to barter goods for Persian oil.

**JORDAN. 21 May—Israel.** Arab Legion H.Q. reported that on 20 May Israelis had attacked three border villages in the Jerusalem district, killing one person and injuring two.

**24 May—**The Government issued a statement alleging that Jewish attacks had been made against eleven Jordan villages on 20 and 22 May, and that three villages in the Hebron district had been attacked on 23 May. It accused the United Nations of supporting Jewish aggression by refusing an investigation into these incidents.

The House of Deputies approved unanimously a memorandum protesting against Sir Winston Churchill's statement on Middle East policy in the House of Commons on 11 May. The memorandum called for support for Egyptian claims and for all possible measures to fight the British Government's policy of enmity to the Arabs.

The Prime Minister, Dr Fawzi el Mulki, read out a statement of policy which promised re-examination and revision of the constitution to allow liberty of speech and the formation of political parties; a five-year plan to increase agricultural production; improvements in industry, health, education, commerce, and communications; and, in the foreign sphere, efforts to strengthen Jordan's ties with the other Arab States and the Arab League. It also stated that any solution of the Palestine question must be dependent on agreement among all the Arab countries.

**26 May—**Frontier incidents (see *Israel*).

**27 May—**It was announced that one Jordanian had been killed when a Jewish force fired across the demarcation line in the Hebron district. National Guards had engaged the attackers for more than two hours.

Four Israeli aircraft had flown overhead during the action. (*See also Israel*).

**1 June**—Israeli allegations *re* frontier incidents (*see Israel*).

**KASHMIR. 22 May**—Six policemen were injured in a clash in Jammu with demonstrators who were protesting against the arrest, earlier in the day, of three leaders of a Hindu extremist organization in favour of the union of Kashmir with India.

**25 May**—Mr Nehru, Indian Prime Minister, concluded a two-day visit during which he had discussions with Sheikh Abdulla and the national conference executive. It was learnt that he was given full authority to discuss Kashmir and evolve an acceptable solution with Mr Mohammed Ali, the Pakistan Prime Minister, during their forthcoming meeting in London and later in Karachi.

**KENYA. 21 May**—A European sergeant and four African trackers were shot dead by terrorists in the Fort Hall Reserve.

**22 May**—Increased penalties for Mau Mau offences were announced, including the death penalty for demanding, collecting, and receiving supplies for terrorists.

The Government announced its decision to accept a proposal made by Asian leaders that the principle of compulsory call-up for national service should be applied to British Asian subjects. All male Asians between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three would be required to register.

A Government spokesman said that so far thirty-nine Africans had been hanged for Mau Mau offences. More than 14,000 had confessed to being Mau Mau adherents.

**27 May**—A Government communiqué said that seventeen terrorists had been killed and three wounded in the past twenty-four hours during a drive against Mau-Mau in the Kiambu reserve.

**28 May**—The Government announced that in the past twenty-four hours terrorists had burned down thirty African huts and stolen 400 head of cattle in the Fort Hall reserve.

**29 May**—Appointment of Gen. Erskine to new East Africa Command (*see Great Britain*).

An area of 6,000 square miles of the Central Province, comprising the Kikuyu reserves of Fort Hall, Nyeri, and Kiambu, and the Meru and Embu districts north and south of Mount Kenya, were sealed off from the rest of the Colony and barred to any one not having a special pass.

The creation of three more special areas on the western edge of the Rift Valley province was announced.

Several more Mau-Mau attacks, particularly in the Fort Hall district, were reported.

**31 May**—The appointment of Mr Frederick Crawford, Governor of the Seychelles Islands, to be Deputy Governor of Kenya was announced.

**1 June**—It was officially stated that Mau-Mau activity had greatly increased in the Meru district during the past month.



**Kenya** (*continued*)

**2 June**—It was announced that in a series of clashes over the past twenty-four hours fifty-four terrorists had been killed, sixteen wounded, and twenty-one captured.

In a terrorist raid in the Embu reserve eleven loyal Kikuyu were reported to have been killed and five wounded.

**KOREA. 22 May**—Red Cross resolution in favour of cease fire (*see League of Red Cross Societies*).

**25 May**—U.N. and Communist negotiators met in secret session at Panmunjom after a week's adjournment. The South Korean representative did not attend. Gen. Harrison presented new U.N. proposals which were not published.

Gen. Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, Far East, had a meeting in Seoul with President Syngman Rhee of South Korea.

**26 May**—British support for U.N. armistice proposals (*see Great Britain*).

Mr Nehru's statement on U.N. proposals (*see India*).

President Eisenhower on new U.N. proposals (*see United States*).

**South Korea.** Following a meeting of the South Korean Cabinet, one of the Ministers said that South Korea's four principles for peace remained unchanged. They were: (1) withdrawal of the Chinese People's Army from Korea; (2) South Korea's right to take part in any international conference discussing Korean matters; (3) a U.N. guarantee of the Korean peace from renewed external pressure; (4) U.N. recognition of the South Korean Government's political sovereignty over Korea.

**27 May**—The Communists called a meeting of liaison officers at Panmunjom to protest against an alleged violation of the neutral zone by two South Korean soldiers whom they claimed to have captured in an attempt to engage in sabotage. An investigation was promised by the U.N. officer.

**28 May—South Korea.** The South Korean Foreign Minister, Pyun Yung Tae, told the National Assembly that the United Nations truce plan was completely unacceptable and that if a cease-fire were signed South Korea would go on fighting alone to unify the country. He said that as a sovereign nation South Korea could not comply with the U.N. request to keep the truce plan secret. It proposed that prisoners refusing repatriation should be placed in the hands of a five-nation commission and under a guard of 1,000 Indian police. In other respects it resembled the Indian resolution passed by the United Nations. South Korea would not consent to North Koreans being handed over to a foreign custodian of any sort.

Yoon Chi Yung, deputy president of the South Korean National Assembly, said that British 'interference' was ruining the truce talks and forcing the free world to surrender to the Communists. 'With only nominal forces in Korea they are shouting louder than the United States. We, the representatives of the people, request the British forces to pack and leave and keep quiet'.

The Communists attacked allied positions along a twenty-mile front on the east-central sector east of Kumsong and later launched another attack on the western front near Panmunjom. The Eighth Army estimated the weight of the former attack at 6,500 men and that of the latter at 4,500 men.

**29 May**—Communist troops overran three allied positions guarding the western invasion route to Seoul. It was estimated that twenty Communist battalions took part in the attack. Another position—the Hook—was recaptured by British troops after twelve hours' fierce fighting.

**30 May**—The Chinese thrusts on the western front were effectively blunted by air and artillery bombardments.

**South Korea.** The acting Foreign Minister, Pyun Yung Tae, declared that if an armistice were reached on the basis of the latest proposals the South Korean Army and police would fight to prevent any neutral foreign troops from arriving in Korea to supervise prisoners of war.

**31 May**—President Syngman Rhee said in a speech to the Korean naval academy: 'We are all convinced that the Republic of Korea will perish unless we fight on and smash the Chinese Communists in Korea. We do not want war, but the Americans want peace at any price.' He also said that the South Korean Government had not told Gen. Choi Duk Shin, the South Korean representative, to boycott the armistice negotiations, but he praised his patriotism in doing so.

The United Nations agreed to a Communist request for a postponement of the armistice negotiations until 4 June.

A Chinese attack in the Kumsong area was successfully held.

**1 June**—Report of President Rhee's request for U.S.-Korean mutual defence pact (see *United States*).

**3 June**—The Communists handed over a document relating to the truce negotiations.

After twenty-four hours' fighting South Korean forces recaptured a height on the eastern front. They also repulsed a Communist attack in the Kumhwa area.

**South Korean Currency.** A United Nations spokesman announced a U.N.-South Korean agreement to alter the exchange rate of the *won* from 60 to 180 to the American dollar.

**LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES.** **22 May**—The executive committee, meeting in Geneva, adopted unanimously a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Korea during the armistice negotiations. Communist China and the Soviet Union were both represented on the committee.

**LEBANON.** **30 May**—On the advice of the Government, the President, Mr Shamoun, dissolved the Chamber of Deputies which was elected in April 1951. An announcement said it had lately failed to carry out its duties and was therefore inefficient.

**31 May**—Arab Economic and Financial Conference *q.v.*

**MALAYA. 24 May**—An operation in which more than 1,000 troops were carried into the jungle by helicopter was launched in Johore. Its objective was to capture or kill the Communist committee of Johore State which was known to have met near Kluang.

**MALTA. 21 May**—Dr Borg Olivier, Prime Minister, told the Legislative Assembly that the difference with the Colonial Office had been settled and that he would attend the Coronation. The official white and red flag would be the only flag of Malta flown in London during the celebrations, and he had been accorded a place with the Prime Ministers of Northern Ireland and Southern Rhodesia.

**MOROCCO. 29 May**—Appeal for deposition of Sultan (*see France*).

**31 May**—French statement (*see France*).

**1 June**—The Palace at Rabat issued a statement declaring that the pashas and caids who signed the petition calling for the Sultan's deposition were in no way qualified to criticize either his political or his religious views and had no right to speak for those under their administration. The statement insinuated that the rebellion of the pashas and caids had been organized by means of French intimidation and pressure, and it demanded immediate sanctions against the petitioners.

**NIGERIA. 21 May**—Statement on constitutional reform (*see Great Britain*).

**23 May**—The Northern House of Assembly passed, with one dissentient vote, a motion that 'the northern region is not ready to commit itself to a fixed date for self-government in 1956'.

**25 May**—Dr Azikiwe, national president of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, announced in a speech in Lagos that he and Mr Awolowo, the Action Group leader, had decided on an irrevocable course of action. He denounced the northern plan for constitutional reform, saying that north and south were indissolubly one, and warned northern leaders that if the Kano riots were repeated they must expect reprisals from northern and southern nationalists.

**2 June**—It was learned that, in letters to the Governor, Mr Azikiwe, president of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, and Mr Awolowo, leader of the Action Group, had both declined the Colonial Secretary's invitation to a conference in London to consider revision of the constitution. They had complained that the invitations had not been addressed to the 'true and accredited representatives of the people in each region' and had criticized the inclusion of Independence party representatives as favouring 'loyal friends of the Governor who by their recent acts forfeited such little following as they ever had in the country'. The two leaders added that they would reconsider their decision if the three regional governments could choose representatives and if the exact purpose of the conference were to consider the exact terms of the redrafting of the constitution.

Hundreds of young nationalists demonstrated against a ban on a

youth rally by tearing down Coronation decorations, beating white occupants of cars, and smashing windows in Government offices. Several arrests were made.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.** 25 May—Appointment of Admiral Fechteler as C.-in-C. Allied Forces, Southern Europe (see *United States*).

**NYASALAND.** 26 May—Chief Gomani, his two sons, and the Rev. Michael Scott fled into Portuguese territory following an attempt by the police to serve a deportation order on the Chief. Gomani had been suspended as a native authority on 19 May after he had refused to withdraw a written order inciting his people to civil disobedience in protest against federation. On 23 May he had refused an order to leave his district in the interests of public security and in consequence the Governor had signed a deportation order.

28 May—The Rev. Michael Scott was declared a prohibited alien and was deported to Britain by air. He had earlier been handed over to the District Commissioner at Dedza by the Portuguese authorities. Chief Gomani and his two sons had been detained by the Portuguese authorities.

**PERSIA.** 21 May—**Shah's Powers.** Eight Opposition deputies walked out of the Majlis, leaving it without a quorum, when the vote was about to be taken on the Bill to limit the Shah's powers.

24 May—The Majlis approved the first reading of the Bill to limit the Shah's powers but when the voting stage on the second reading was reached eleven Opposition deputies walked out and prevented a vote.

25 May—Mr Navarra, who had been imprisoned six months earlier on charges of espionage for Britain, was released and ordered to leave Persia by 30 May.

2 June—Dr Musaddiq, Prime Minister, issued a decree giving legal status to the Majlis budget commission's report on the budget. The report showed a deficit of about 500 m. rials but expressed the hope that revenue would exceed the estimate and fill the gap.

**POLAND.** 27 May—**Church and State.** It was learnt that the Communist drive against the Roman Catholic hierarchy had been considerably increased in the last few weeks, many priests having been forced to take the oath of loyalty to the Government and to denounce bishops remaining faithful to the Vatican. The number of bishops removed from office and kept in custody was believed to number seven. Publication of *Tygodnik Powszechny*, the only independent Catholic organ, had been stopped.

**RHODESIA, NORTHERN.** 1 June—Small groups of Africans demonstrated against the colour bar in copperbelt catering establishments in Kitwe.

2 June—Africans staged further demonstrations in Kitwe.

**RUMANIA. 26 May**—Expulsion of diplomat from United States (*see United States*).

**31 May**—Rumano-Yugoslav Danube agreement (*see Yugoslavia*).

**SOUTH AFRICA. 27 May**—Speaking at Rustenburg, Mr Strydom, acting Prime Minister, said that approval of the English-speaking community for *apartheid* would ultimately materialize but their co-operation would never be complete without a republic. The English-speaking section would have to 'break their bonds with England just as Afrikaners had broken theirs with Holland'. But a republic must be brought about with persuasion. No offence must be given. People must be convinced by 'pure logic'. Mr Strydom challenged Mr Strauss to say whether he stood for the white man's domination or the ultimate equality of white and non-white. The United Party could not delude the Nationalists that the European could hold his own unless he were master.

**Natal.** The Natal Provincial Council passed with two dissentients a motion initiated by a United Party member calling for a definite assurance from the Government that it would not create a republic without first holding a referendum in Natal.

**29 May**—Mr Strydom replied to the Natal Provincial Council's resolution with an unequivocal refusal to give the required pledge.

**30 May**—The former Chief Lutuli, president-general of the African National Congress, was forbidden to address public meetings and ordered not to enter specified areas for twelve months.

**SUDAN. 3 June**—It was announced that direct election constituencies for the lower Chamber would be increased to 68 instead of the 35 proposed in the self-governing statute. There would be 24 indirect instead of 57. The change was made largely to meet Egyptian demands.

**SYRIA. 22 May**—It was learned that the Syrian Government had protested in a Note to Britain against Sir Winston Churchill's statement on the Middle East in his speech of 11 May in the House of Commons. In a press interview, Col. Shishakli, deputy Prime Minister and Chief of Staff, urged Arab Government leaders to meet to discuss a change of policy towards Britain. He described Britain as 'the greatest enemy of the Arabs'.

**TUNISIA. 29 May**—The police announced that they had arrested sixty members of an organization known as the 'Millers of God' which they claimed was responsible for the assassination on 2 May of Chedly Kastalli, vice-chairman of the Tunis municipal council. The police said the organization had drawn up a list of thirty men to be eliminated in the fight for independence. Warrants had been issued for thirteen other members of the organization.

**TURKEY. 25 May**—Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived in Istanbul.

**26 May**—Mr Dulles and Mr Stassen arrived in Ankara where they



had talks with Turkish Ministers. Mr Dulles was handed a memorandum containing Turkish views on military, economic, and political questions.

**UNITED STATES. 21 May—Trade with China.** British firm's reply to allegations (*see Hong Kong*).

**23 May—Korea: Ammunition Shortage.** Four of the five members of the sub-committee of the Senate armed forces committee which had been investigating reports of an ammunition shortage in Korea signed a report which said that analysis of testimony had led to the conclusion that 'this is a tragic episode which has been extremely costly to the American people' and had caused 'needless loss of American lives'. They said it was difficult to pinpoint the responsibility which must be shared by President Truman; Mr Acheson, former Secretary of State, and the whole State Department; Gen. Marshall and Mr Lovett, the two ex-Secretaries of Defence; Mr Pace, former Secretary of the Army; the National Security Council; and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A fifth member of the Committee, a Democrat, submitted a minority report which pointed out that the majority statement was based on conflicting testimony by various army generals.

**24 May—Voice of America.** Programmes of the Voice of America were suspended or reduced in many parts of the world as a result of cuts made by Congress in its appropriations.

**25 May—Atomic Weapons.** The first atomic shell was fired on the Nevada proving ground.

**The Rosenbergs.** The Supreme Court announced its refusal to review the appeal of Julius Rosenberg and his wife who were under sentence of death for transmitting atomic secrets to Russia.

**N.A.T.O.** The White House announced that Admiral Fechteler, Chief of Naval Operations, had been designated to succeed Admiral Carney as C.-in-C., Allied Forces, Southern Europe.

**Trade with China.** Following a hearing of the Senate foreign relations committee, Senator Wiley told the press that Mr Hansen, acting deputy Mutual Security Administrator, had supplied enough evidence to prove to the committee's satisfaction that it would upset the economies of America's allies and create an additional demand for American aid 'if the free world stopped trading with Communist China entirely'. Mr Hansen had told the committee that the twelve-nation co-ordination committee on east-west trade was working amicably and the United States was often able to persuade its allies to stop shipping goods which it alone considered were strategic.

**26 May—Rumania.** The Government ordered the immediate deportation of the first secretary at the Rumanian Legation, Mr Zambetti, for attempting to blackmail a naturalized American citizen of Rumanian birth, Mr Georgescu, into spying for the Rumanian Government. The price offered was the welfare of Mr Georgescu's sons who were in Rumania and their possible restoration to their parents.

**Korea.** President Eisenhower issued a statement defining the four principles on which, he said, the new U.N. proposals rested. They

**United States (continued)**

were: (1) No prisoners would be sent back by force. (2) None would be intimidated or coerced in any way. (3) There must be a time limit to their captivity. (4) All procedures for the exchange of prisoners must reflect these principles. The President added that the principles had the support of 'our allies' and of a representative bi-partisan group of senators and congressmen and were in keeping with the Indian resolution adopted by the United Nations in December 1952.

In a speech at Cincinnati Senator Taft, majority leader in the Senate, said: 'I think we should do our best now to negotiate this truce (in Korea), and if we fail, then let England and our other allies know that we are withdrawing from all further peace negotiations in Korea. I believe we might as well abandon any idea of working with the United Nations in the east, and reserve to ourselves a completely free hand.' He considered the United Nations was useless as a means to halt aggression and that an international conference should be called to amend the U.N. Charter.

**27 May—Foreign Aid.** The Administration informed Congress of its decision to cut foreign aid requests for 1953-4 by \$354 m., thus reducing the total requested from \$5,828 m. to \$5,474 m. It was stated that the cut was made possible by lower costs, economies, and the deferment of certain supplies and projects.

**China and the United Nations.** The Senate appropriations committee voted to bar any contribution to the United Nations in the next fiscal year if Communist China became a member of the Security Council.

**28 May—Korea.** President Eisenhower repudiated at his press conference Senator Taft's suggestion that if the latest truce proposals were rejected by the Chinese the United States should give up working with her allies in the Far East. He said no single free nation could live alone in the world and no understandable frustrations or irritations should be allowed to overshadow this cardinal principle. No one, he declared, would deflect him in his efforts to lead the country along the course he had charted. Asked whether he would accept a truce which the South Korean Government opposed, he said the United States would never accept an agreement which her conscience knew to be unfair to South Korea, but he thought that if agreement could be reached on the new proposals the United States would be in a better position to secure a just plan for South Korea.

**Trade with China.** In a letter to the Senate investigating sub-committee, Mr Thruston Morton, assistant Secretary of State, said that the State Department had received reliable information that the *Perico*, then owned by Wallam and Co. of Hong Kong, and the *Miramar*, then owned by Wheelock Marden and Co. of Hong Kong, had both carried Chinese Communist troops along the Chinese coast, the *Perico* in July 1951 and the *Miramar* in June 1952. The Panamanian Government had cancelled the registration of the *Perico* in October 1951, and the *Miramar*'s registration in August 1952. There was no evidence that the *Perico* had changed hands until it was sold for scrap in April 1952.

The *Miramar* was reported to have come under Chinese Communist control subsequent to June 1952. Senator Mundt, acting chairman of the sub-committee said that the State Department's report confirmed and elaborated the committee's allegations that British-owned ships carried Communist troops to China in 1951 and 1952 (see also *Hong Kong*).

Sir Roger Makins, British Ambassador, deplored in a luncheon speech the use of such isolated and doubtful cases as the two ships mentioned at the congressional hearing to cast aspersions on the loyalty of the British Government and people in their effort in the common cause. He said that on the evidence available no ship under the British flag and subject to British law had ever transported Chinese troops in Chinese waters. The question turned on two ships of Panamanian registry flying the Panamanian flag in which British companies had ownerships or an interest. At the time of the alleged incidents in 1951 and 1952 they appeared to have been under the executive control of the Chinese Communists and it was doubtful whether they were even technically in the control of British interests. The whole question was under investigation and needed careful sifting.

**29 May**—Mr Dulles, Secretary of State, and Mr Stassen, Director of Mutual Security, arrived back in Washington from their visit to the Near and Middle East, India, and Pakistan.

**30 May—Korea.** President Eisenhower summoned the Secretaries of State and Defence and the Army Chief of Staff to a conference on developments in South Korea. It was revealed that the President had sent a personal note to President Rhee, explaining how the latest U.N. truce proposals reflected and safeguarded basic U.N. principles, and appealing for South Korean support.

**1 June—State Department Reorganization.** President Eisenhower proposed to Congress a reorganization of the State Department so as to bring under its authority all foreign economic aid programmes, including the Mutual Security Agency. For administration he recommended the establishment of a new agency—the Foreign Operations Administration—to control the various foreign aid programmes, but the Secretary of State was to be responsible for all policy decisions. In addition he proposed the setting up of a new governmental body—the United States Informational Agency—to conduct all foreign information programmes at present divided between the State Department, the M.S.A., the technical co-operation programme, and the Voice of America.

**Germany.** Herr Blankenhorn, director of the political division of the Federal German Foreign Ministry, arrived in Washington as a personal envoy of Dr Adenauer.

**Middle East.** In a broadcast on his Middle Eastern tour, Mr Dulles emphasized that the United States should discard the appearance of supporting colonialism. He was convinced that U.S. policy had become 'unnecessarily ambiguous' in allaying suspicions of American sympathy for French or British colonial interests and that without breaking from the framework of western unity the United States should

**United States (continued)**

pursue her traditional dedication to political liberty. On the Suez Canal base he said: 'The matter has an importance which goes beyond Egypt, for the bases serve all near Eastern and, indeed, western security. . . . There is nothing irreconcilable between this international concern and Egyptian sovereignty. The United States is prepared to assist in any desired way. . . . If this Suez problem can be satisfactorily solved I am confident that Egypt can find means to develop its land and lift up its people.' On Israel he said the United States should seek to allay the deep resentment aroused against it resulting from the creation of Israel. The Arab peoples feared Zionism more than Communism and they feared U.S. support for Israeli aggressive expansion. Mr Dulles reaffirmed that the United States stood fully behind the three-Power declaration of 1950 pledging action against any Middle East nation violating frontiers or armistice lines.

**Korea.** President Rhee of South Korea was reported to have written to President Eisenhower asking for the promise of a mutual defence pact in exchange for South Korean support for the allied truce proposals.

**3 June—European Coal and Steel Community.** M. Monnet and Mr Etzel, president and vice-president respectively of the High Authority of the Coal and Steel Community, met the President and the Secretary of State. They were paying an official visit to Washington at the President's invitation. The White House issued a statement describing the Community as the 'first important step' towards a united Europe which the President considered to be an historic necessity for European and world peace and prosperity.

U.S.—Federal German treaty (*see Germany*).

President Eisenhower declared in a televised and radio address to the nation that there would be no appeasement of Communism—'no new Munich', and he gave a pledge that expenditure would not be reduced so drastically as to risk 'general war'.

**China.** The Senate voted unanimously to replace the appropriations committee's resolution of 27 May by a motion declaring it to be 'the sense of Congress that the Communist Chinese Government should not be admitted to membership of the United Nations as the representative of China'. The decision followed a pledge given by President Eisenhower to Republican leaders that he would lead the opposition to the admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

**U.S.S.R. 24 May—Pravda's Reply to Sir Winston Churchill.** *Pravda* devoted a front-page article to an examination of Sir Winston Churchill's speech of 11 May. It stated that not everything which the British Prime Minister had said in regard to mutual relations with the Soviet Union could be accepted in the U.S.S.R. without serious objections, but it was important to underline those aspects of his speech which could contribute towards the settlement of international problems. Churchill's declaration that the problem of combining the security of Russia with the freedom and security of western Europe was not insoluble was described as a 'timely move' deserving of support.

In regard to Korea, the article said that Churchill's statement that the Korean and Chinese proposals of 7 May were deserving of patient and attentive examination, as well as other statements by British M.P.'s criticizing U.N. representatives for dragging out the Panmunjom negotiations, 'echoed growing dissatisfaction of all strata of the British nation with the delay in solving the Korea deadlock'. It said further that Mr Nehru had shown in a recent speech that Gen. Harrison's attitude was in flagrant contradiction with the resolution on prisoners passed by the United Nations at the end of 1952, and it attributed full blame for delay in the negotiations to Gen. Harrison's stand.

On the problem of Germany, *Pravda* criticized Churchill for ignoring the Yalta and Potsdam agreements and opposed any return to the Locarno plan, declaring that it had opened the way to Germany's freedom of action in the east and had been a contributory factor in the preparation of the second world war. It considered that to return to the Locarno plan would lead to international groupings of countries against others and a sharpening of international differences. *Pravda* also criticized Churchill for making no mention of the establishment of a united Germany and said that his reaffirmation of support for the treaties with western Germany suggested that he accepted the division of Germany. In *Pravda's* opinion, the basic problem concerning Germany consisted in the ending of the existing division, the signing of a peace treaty based on the principles of the Potsdam agreement, and the establishment of a united, peace-loving, and democratic Germany. Churchill's omission of any reference to the Anglo-Soviet treaty of mutual assistance of 1942, aimed at the prevention of German aggression, was also noted.

In regard to the Austrian treaty, the article laid full responsibility for the delay in settling the question on the three western Powers, who, it declared, had renounced the text which had almost been agreed upon and had substituted an abbreviated treaty 'rudely trampling on the rights of the Soviet Union and the democratic rights of the Austrian people'. *Pravda* next commented on the absence in Churchill's speech of any mention of China, and noted the statement of Mr Attlee that China must be accorded 'her rightful place in the Security Council'. It ascribed Mr Attlee's attitude, not to sympathy for Communism, but to British interest in trading with China now that hopes of expanding trade with the United States were weakening.

Churchill's suggestion of a high-level meeting between the leading Powers was described as 'extremely timely', but *Pravda* pointed out that the proposed three-Power conference (in Bermuda) meant that if the western Powers intended to draw up a common line and agree among themselves at the expense of the Soviet Union, then Churchill was already retreating from, if not the letter, the spirit of his offer for high-level talks. The Soviet Union could only participate if no demands were agreed on beforehand. The planned preliminary meeting signified continuation of the old line, which had in no way justified itself, of aligning Powers according to the principle governing their regimes. This did not tend to relieve but rather to intensify international tension. It was



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obvious that whatever differences might exist in the social systems of various Powers there were certain common interests, and the Soviet Union was always ready to examine any suggestions directed towards assuring peace and the widest possible economic and cultural relations among the Powers.

**25 May**—Soviet refusal to attend deputies' meeting to consider Austrian treaty (*see Great Britain*).

Western Note *re* Austrian treaty (*see Great Britain*).

**27 May**—*Pravda* and *Izvestia* published an announcement by the Ministry of the Interior that four men who had been dropped into the Ukraine from an American plane on the night of 25–26 April to carry out espionage and sabotage for the United States had been shot. The men were alleged to have been trained at a special espionage training school of the American intelligence at Bad Wiessee, near Munich. Other similar training schools were said to exist at Munich, Frankfurt-on-Main, Kaufbeuren, and Bad Wörishofen.

**YUGOSLAVIA. 21 May**—Speaking at an army ceremony at Batajnica, Marshal Tito said that Yugoslavia would be ready to establish 'normal tolerable relations' with the Cominform *bloc* in order to contribute to peace in eastern Europe, but whatever Yugoslavia's relations might be with the Soviet Union 'we shall never desert our western allies while they are protecting and fighting for a just cause and for just relations among the nations of the world'. Yugoslavia would never forget their support in the most difficult moments of her history.

**22 May**—**Land Holdings.** Parliament passed a law reducing the maximum individual holding of land from 30 to 10 hectares.

**26 May**—Mr Popovic, Foreign Minister, said in Belgrade that normal relations with Russia would be out of the question until the Soviet Government abandoned its policy of discrimination against Yugoslavia and re-established normal diplomatic relations.

**31 May**—**Rumania. Danube Administration.** In the course of negotiations in Belgrade over the control of the Iron Gate section of the River Danube forming the Yugoslav-Rumanian frontier, an agreement was signed for joint administration of that section of the river. The agreement related to regulations ensuring full international navigation and provided for equal participation in piloting and administrative services. Discussions on other aspects of Danube shipping were continuing.